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REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft programme of action for the prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

The present document contains information submitted by the Government of Senegal.

SENEGAL

[Original: French]
[28 January 1993]

It is obvious that the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others are spreading throughout the world, while the international conscience is unable to decide to define and implement a genuine policy to eradicate these evils, which the international community has been condemning since 1949 (preamble to the Convention of 2 December 1949 on this problem).

The current situation represents the failure of everything that has been done by the international community, which did adopt legal instruments, but has so far not been able to implement them.

In order to increase the awareness of peoples and their leaders and urge them resolutely to combat the scourge of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, consideration should be given to the adoption of specific measures with a view to its eradication.

The strategy to be adopted might focus on ways of increasing awareness, but also on ways of providing assistance involving specialized United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and national religious institutions.

The following measures might be taken:

(a) Formulation and controlled implementation of national and international legislation making it possible to cope with the seriousness of the situation, together with compulsory international sanctions;

(b) Institutionalization at the national and international levels of the idea that one part of the year should be devoted to enhancing awareness of the problem and improving its management;

(c) Further involvement of the international agencies of the United Nations system in action to combat violations of human rights and human dignity; sections of these agencies specialized in this field should be set up in each country to monitor this aspect of the protection of human rights and human dignity;

(d) Involvement of national Red Crosses and Red Crescents in action to combat these scourges, to increase awareness of them and to provide assistance to the victims, thereby making the support of the international offices of these organizations systematic;

(e) Involvement of religious institutions in specific action to increase awareness; in view of what might be regarded as a failure by Government leaders, a return to religious morality might be a moderating factor and a major boost for policies in this field;

(f) Emphasis on the need to return to the traditional values still prevalent in rural areas; in Senegal, in particular, many households still have the treasure of the honour of an entire lineage; this would also be an opportunity to draw attention to some negative aspects of western civilization; the primary aim would then be to fight relentlessly against indecency leading to dissolute behaviour;

(g) Focusing in a more individual way on the family unit by emphasizing that it is sacred because it is the basis of the human community;

(h) Dealing head on with prostitution and not only with the exploitation of the prostitution of others and implementing a policy to eradicate prostitution, even though it is said to be as old as the world;

(i) The problem of the adoption of children must be reconsidered and subjected to international rules and regulations requiring countries to enact national legislation guaranteeing the security, dignity, health and life of adoptees. In the past few years, disappearances of children and adoptions without the necessary guarantees and follow-up have given rise to fears of traffic in children and hence to a presumption that a crime is being committed. With regard to Senegal, the substance of existing legislation on adoption should be reviewed and made stricter in order to guarantee greater protection for adoptees. At present, the fact is that the problem of the

traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others is not an easy one because it involves elements without which there can be no dignity, namely, the underdevelopment, hunger, poverty and destitution of peoples and nations.

The objectives of the United Nations programme of action should thus be:

(a) To establish an operational system of development assistance, since underdevelopment is ultimately one of the main causes of prostitution and the traffic in persons; the policy would thus enable the most threatened countries to bring about and guarantee the well-being of their population in all areas;

(b) To promote a policy of incentives for giving up prostitution; social integration and advancement should then be possible for registered prostitutes who have decided to turn away from prostitution; a national agency should also be established to deal with activities for the integration and social advancement of women who have "got out";

(c) To involve non-governmental organizations in integration and social advancement activities; national, regional, local and even individual programmes and projects should be implemented for women and children, especially those who have decided to start living normal lives in society again;

(d) To encourage activities promoting virtue, chastity in particular; to this end, less emphasis should be placed on contraceptives and condoms, western civilization and technological advances, which are, of course, necessary to the survival of the planet, but nonetheless lead to perversion and behaviour contrary to the ideals of community life;

(e) To set up departments or services in ministerial departments dealing with women and children to define and implement Government policy with regard to action to prevent the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others;

(f) To strengthen legislation at the international level and establish a body for the coordination, follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of national and international legislation in this regard.